

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A scanning image formation optical system for use in an optical scanner for scanning a scanned surface for one or more scanning lines by causing one or more coupled luminous fluxes from a light source to be incident on a deflecting reflective surface of a rotating optical deflector, which rotates around a rotary axis of the optical deflector, said rotary axis being parallel to the deflecting reflective surface, diagonally deflecting the luminous fluxes relative to a surface perpendicular to the rotary axis of the optical deflector, and converging the deflected luminous fluxes toward the scanned surface by the scanning image formation optical system so as to form an optical spot on the scanned surface, the scanning image forming optical system comprising:

two or more optical elements, at least two different elements of the two or more optical elements each having at least one ~~special~~ tilt surface, each said tilt surface formed such that a tilt amount of a sub-scanning cross-sectional configuration changes in a main scanning direction, each ~~special~~ tilt surface formed so as to correct a scanning line curvature and a wavefront aberration on the scanned surface, one ~~special~~ tilt surface having a different change in a tilt amount in the main scanning direction from another ~~special~~ tilt surface, a first ~~special~~ tilt surface partially correcting a scanning line curvature and a wavefront aberration, and a last ~~special~~ tilt surface further correcting scanning line curvature and reducing a remaining wavefront aberration to a tolerable level.

Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 1,

wherein each of the two or more optical elements is a lens.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 1,

wherein the two or more optical elements include one or more lenses and a reflecting mirror having one or more reflecting surfaces, and

wherein at least one ~~special~~ tilt surface is formed on the reflecting mirror.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 1,

wherein the scanning image formation optical system includes two lenses, and

wherein said first ~~special~~ tilt surface is formed on a surface of a first lens of the two lenses located at a side of the optical deflector and a second ~~special~~ tilt surface is formed on an emitting surface of a second lens of the two lenses at a side of the scanned surface.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 6,

wherein the surface of the first lens located at the optical deflector side, in which the first ~~special~~ tilt surface is formed, is an emitting surface of the first lens located at the optical deflector side.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 1,

wherein the scanning image formation optical system is an anamorphic optical system having a geometrically conjugate relation in a sub-scanning direction between a vicinity of the deflecting reflective surface of the optical deflector and a position of the scanned surface.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 8,

wherein a shape in a main scanning cross-section of one or more lens surfaces of the anamorphic optical system is non-arcuate.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 8,

wherein a center of paraxial curvature in a sub-scanning cross-section on one or more lens surfaces of the anamorphic optical system draws a curved line in the main scanning direction.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 8,

wherein a shape in a sub-scanning cross-section of one or more lens surfaces of the anamorphic optical system is non-arcuate.

Claims 12-62 (Canceled).

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The scanning image formation optical system according to Claim 1,

wherein said tolerable level is ~~two or more optical elements correct~~ a wavefront aberration at a most peripheral portion of said optical spot ~~of to be~~ 0.5λ or lower at a peak valley value.